AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGURE 2. This sheet, which includes FIGURES 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet including FIGURES 2 and 3. In FIGURE 2, previously omitted elements 65, 67, 69 and 71 have been added

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of October 6, 2006.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Amendments

In the specification, the paragraphs [0023] to [0025] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. In addition, reference numerals 65, 67, 69 and 71 have been added.

In FIGURE 2, previously omitted elements 65, 67, 69 and 71 have been added.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-11 remain in this application. Claims 3, 4, 12, and 13 have been canceled. Claims 14-20 have been withdrawn. Claims 8, 9, and 11 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments may found, for example, in paragraph [0043] of the specification.

The Office Action

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Canon NP6551 Operator's Manual (Canon). The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 4 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Canon in view of Clark.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-7 Are Not Anticipated By Canon

The Canon manual describes a very basic copier that includes a substrate feeder, a controller and a user interface (UI) for control of the apparatus, Auto-mode buttons and means to save settings. However,

- the Canon UI is used to control only the job programming and enablement or disablement of certain features/functions and energy saver timer settings;
- the Canon UI does not give the user the ability to adjust machine control settings to tune the system to extend its' pre-determined / pre-programmed operating range;
- the Canon UI is not used to provide continuously adjustable control any feeding *performance* parameters to extend the operating range of the product;
- this Canon product used friction retard feeders and not VF or Shuttle feeders; and

- the Canon manual does not allow for performance parameter control of any of the VCF or Shuttle feeder performance parameters.

Canon and others, Xerox included, have produced office equipment for years that operate per a pre-determined set of operating parameters and timings in order to make the product perform in a satisfactory way over a specific range of operating conditions. Office equipment manufacturers have also provided means where users could customize the device feature and setting changes to suit the user's convenience, however, the *operating performance parameters* have continually been hidden from the user to protect the equipment, simplify the user experience and maximize customer satisfaction while giving good performance over a specific set of operating conditions. *The present application breaks from the industry paradigm and gives the user the ability to manually control the performance parameters of these equipment by changing them from the automated / pre-programmed hidden set of parameters in order to extend the performance operating window.* This is a fundamental difference that is not disclosed in the Canon manual.

A review of the Canon manual suggests that it does provide for a means of electronically saving job programming or feature settings that is described in our patent application but that is where the similarity ends. That said, in comparing the Canon manual to the features of claims 1, 2, and 5-7, it is apparent that the Canon manual *does not* address any the following items:

- the user interface including a stock library view
- a stock settings dialog screen having an expert feeder controls section
- a manual mode selector switch and an auto mode operation
- a control panel for manual mode operation,
- the control panel for manual mode operation including means for adjusting a plurality of feeder parameters; fluffers, heaters, feed head vacuums,
- indicators for manual and auto modes
- access to or modification of the feeder (machine) performance parameters

These are the major differences between the Canon manual and the pending claims. As such, claim 1, and all of the claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 8-11 Are Not Obvious Over The Canon Manual In View Of Clark

Relative to feeding, the Canon manual discloses only a means to select which tray the copier will feed from. It contains no other feeding information in it and teaches no association with either the automatic or manual control of feeding performance characteristics.

It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the feeder assemblies of the type taught by Clark in the document forming apparatus disclosed by Canon.

The paper feeders of choice for equipment built by Canon are ones of the friction retard variety, which are very different from VCF or Shuttle Feeders. If one were to apply the "obvious" case of using VCF or Shuttle Feeders in the Canon copier as suggested by the Examiner, then it is much more obvious that the feeder performance parameters would be hidden from the user since Canon makes no mention in their manual of making any machine performance parameter controls accessible to the user and neither does Clark in the Xerox patent. Making the "under the hood" performance parameters available to the user is the unique aspect of this patent application that is not disclosed in either the Canon manual or the Clark patent.

Relative to the Clark patent, in column 2, line 25, it talks of "The vacuum, air knife output and/or a fluffer output are then adjusted according to predetermined rules and measured deflection" or what may be described as the "Auto" mode. The Clark patent is aimed at a control program configured to select set of fixed preferred operating parameters and adjusting the feeder elements to those predetermined settings (Auto Mode).

While the predetermined settings are adequate to cover a large part of the operating range of substrate materials, it represents only the "safe" area of operation or a combination of performance settings that enable good performance on most but not all materials. The print shops of today want to be able to feed non-standard substrates to gain a competitive edge. This need was recognized and is described in paragraphs [0039] – [0042], whereby the means to provide manually adjustable control of the feeding parameters in order to extend the feeding capability is provided.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1, 2, and 5-11) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment A. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call John S. Zanghi, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

1/8/07
Date

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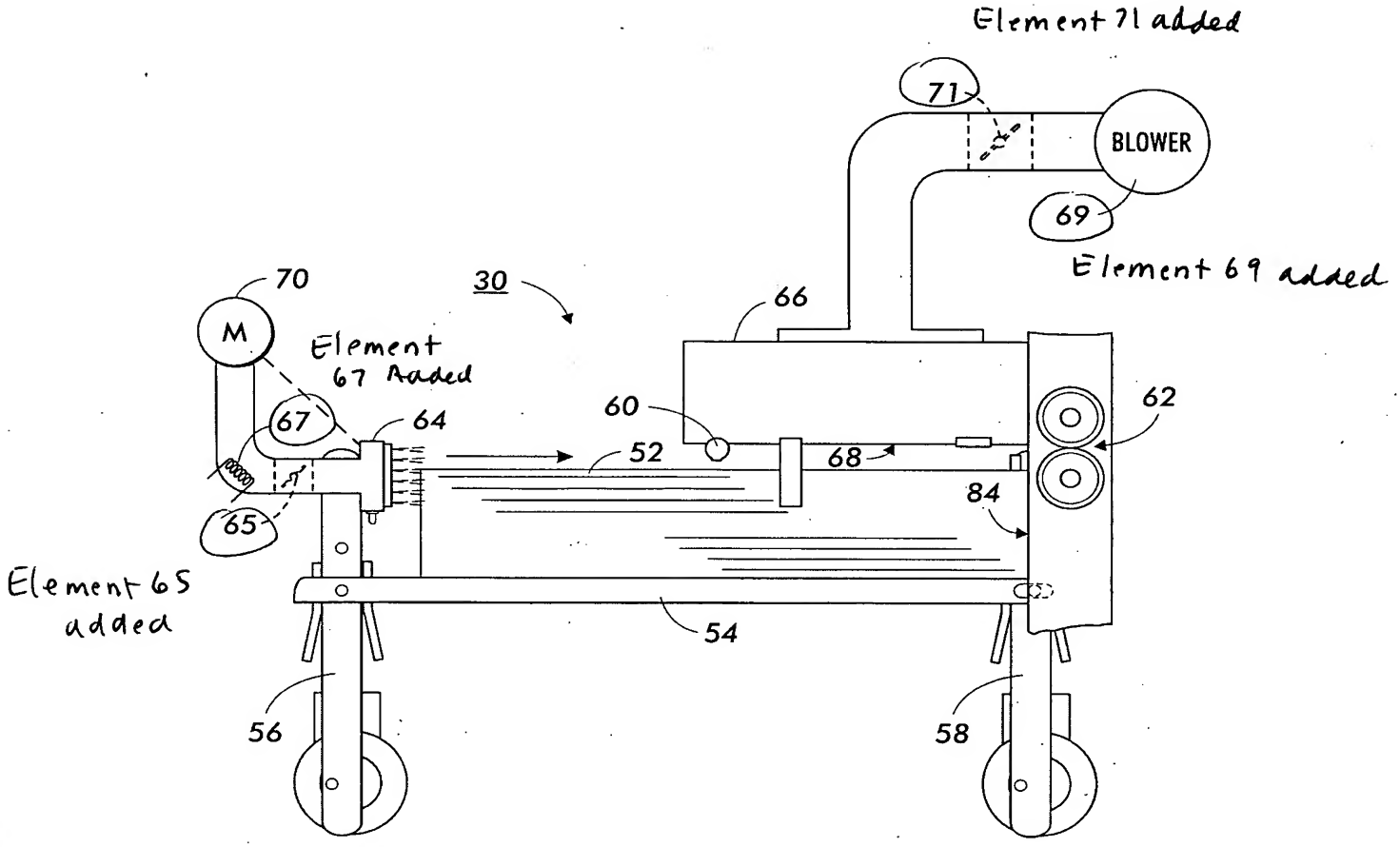
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71
BLOWER
69
Element 69 added
70
30
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Element
67 Added
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67
64
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62
52
68
84
65
Element 65
added
54
56
58

FIG. 2

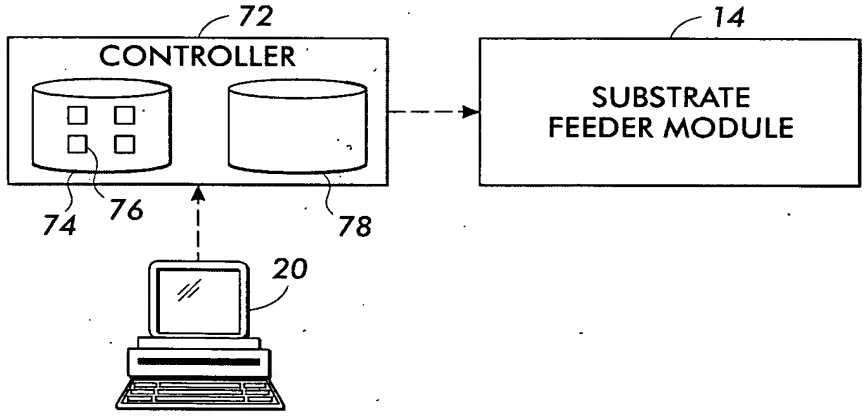
72
CONTROLLER
14
SUBSTRATE
FEEDER MODULE
74
76
78
20

FIG. 3